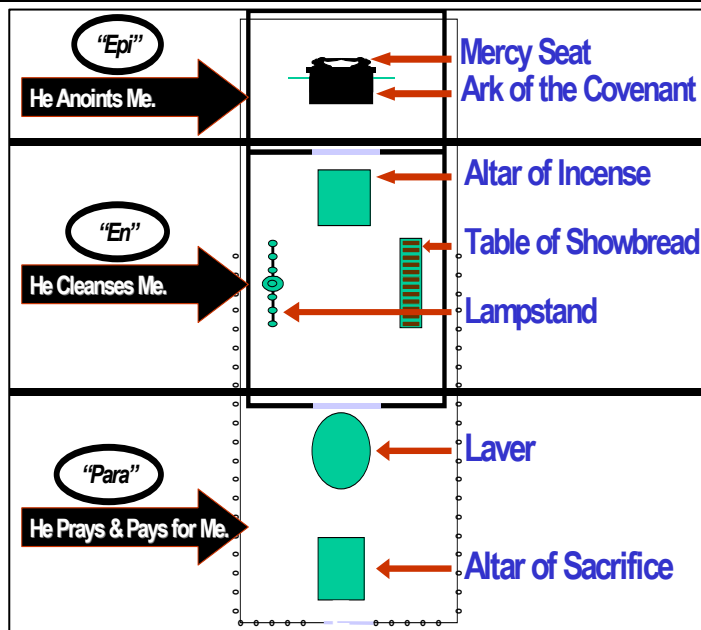
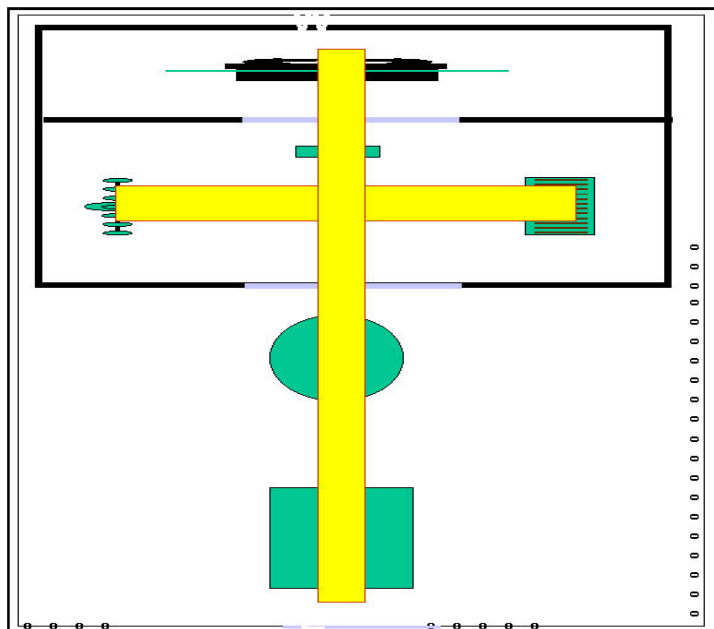


## Exodus 30 - Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009

- As we get into chapter 30 we'll be studying about two more furnishings in the Tabernacle both the altar of incense and the bronze laver.
  - First I would like for us to have a visual of what they are and where they were, before we look at and study about the why behind them.
  - In order to do that, I want to draw your attention to a "nuts and bolts" description of these two furnishings from Rose Publishing.
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- The Altar of Incense was made from shittim (acacia) wood, and stood in front of the veil concealing the Most Holy Place.
  - Its four corners each had a horn made from one piece.
  - Its top, sides, and horns were overlaid with gold, with a crown or molding all around the top.
  - The Altar of Incense had rings on its side for carrying poles.
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- The measurements of the Altar of Incense: 1 cubit long (1.5 ft. or 46 cm) - 1 cubit wide (1.5 ft. or 46 cm) - 2 cubits high (3 ft. or 92 cm)
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- The High Priest burned incense upon it every morning and evening.
  - The fire for the incense came from the Bronze Altar in the outer court.
  - The Lord required a special sweet incense, a mixture of spices, used only for the Tabernacle to be burned on the altar of incense.
  - The priest was in danger of death if any other incense was burned. (Lev. 10:1-2)
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- Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the horns of the altar were sprinkled with the blood of the sin offering.
  - The incense rising with smoke is a picture of our prayers rising to heaven. (Psalm 141:1-2)
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- The bronze laver and its bronze stand were made from the mirrors of the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting.
  - The exact size of the bronze laver is not described in Scripture.
  - The bronze laver was located between the bronze altar and the Tabernacle.
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- The bronze laver was used for ceremonial washing:
  - Priests bathed their entire body when they were ordained. (Exodus 29:4)
  - Following ordination, the priests had to wash their hands and feet every time they entered the Tabernacle.
  - This also had to be done every time they approached the bronze altar to minister, or they would die. (Exodus 30:19-21)
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- Washing hands and feet stood for sanctification, or becoming holy.
  - Serving God requires not just cleansing from sin, but desiring holiness.
  - The Bible tells believers to cleanse their hearts from guilt before approaching God. (Hebrews 10:22)
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- Followers of Jesus have accepted his sacrificial death on their behalf.
  - However, believers must be cleansed from sin and continue to strive for holiness. (James 4:8)
  - God wants us to purify our hearts so that we can resist evil and be near to God.
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- Jesus loved us so much, that he died so that all believers are made holy and blameless before God. (Ephesians 5:25-27)
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- As we now begin chapter 30, I want to sort of break it down by sections because of a message that is communicated in and through it.

1. THE LORD PRAYS FOR ME (THE ALTAR OF INCENSE, VERSES 1-10)
2. THE LORD PAYS FOR ME (THE CENSUS OF ISRAEL, VERSES 11-16)
3. THE LORD CLEANSSES ME (THE BRONZE BASIN, VERSES 17-21)
4. THE LORD ANOINTS ME (THE ANOINTING OIL, VERSES 22-38)

- By way of illustration, I put together this diagram to get a visual. Notice that there is a progression in its application to our lives today.
- While it's true we don't need the Tabernacle, we do need Who and what the Tabernacle points to. Christ's finished work on the cross.



**30:1** "You shall make an altar to burn incense on; you shall make it of acacia wood. 2 A cubit shall be its length and a cubit its width -- it shall be square -- and two cubits shall be its height. Its horns shall be of one piece with it. 3 And you shall overlay its top, its sides all around, and its horns with pure gold; and you shall make for it a molding of gold all around. 4 two gold rings you shall make for it, under the molding on both its sides. You shall place them on its two sides, and they will be holders for the poles with which to bear it. 5 You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. 6 And you shall put it before the veil that is before the ark of the Testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the Testimony, where I will meet with you.

- Moses is now given the instructions for the construction of the altar of incense. Notice that it's also portable like the other articles.
- The altar of sacrifice pointed to what Jesus did, and now this altar of incense points to what Jesus is even now doing, praying, for us!
- Again, incense in typology is prayer, as the Tabernacle is Jesus, and every detail of this particular altar is about Jesus and prayer.

**Psalms 141:1-2** O LORD, I call to you; come quickly to me. Hear my voice when I call to you. 2 May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. NIV

**Revelation 5:8** And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. NIV

**Revelation 8:3-5** 3 Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. 4 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. NIV

- One of the most encouraging truths in all the scripture's is that Jesus is praying for me and even always lives to intercede for me.

**Hebrews 7:22-25** 22 Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. 23 Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; 24 but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. 25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. NIV

- We have examples of this in the Bible where Jesus, in what is actually the Lord's Prayer, is praying and interceding for us. (John 17)
- Also, we have an instance when Jesus tells Peter that He Himself has prayed for him. He also tells him that Satan wants to sift him.

**Luke 22:31-32** 31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." NIV

7 "Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it. 8 And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense on it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.

- Here we have some specific details regarding how the altar of incense is to be used. Notice that it is to be every morning and evening.
- Not only was it to be every morning and evening, but it was to be perpetually, or continually before the Lord throughout all generations.

9 You shall not offer strange incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; nor shall you pour a drink offering on it. 10 And Aaron shall make atonement upon its horns once a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonement; once a year he shall make atonement upon it throughout your generations. It is most holy to the LORD."

- It's interesting to note that no sacrifice or "strange incense" was to be offered on it. This wasn't a place for an animal sacrifice.

As one commentator said; "Prayer is not the place sacrificial atonement is made, it is the place sacrificial atonement is enjoyed. We don't save ourselves through prayer, we pray because of Jesus' saving work on the cross."

- Before we go to verse 11, I want to connect the dots between the description of their altar then and the description of our praying now.

VERSE	DESCRIPTIONS OF THEIR ALTAR	DESCRIPTIONS OF OUR PRAYER
Verse 1	An altar of incense	Prayer alters us
Verse 2	Small only 18" long by 18" wide	Not the length but the strength of prayer
Verse 3	Horns (power) with pure gold (God)	We experience God's power when we pray
Verse 4	Mobile with poles to carry it	I can pray anywhere, it carries me through
Verse 5	Wood (humanity) covered in gold	My prayers in my humanity are covered by Him
Verse 6	It's closest to the Most Holy place	When I pray, I'm closest to the Lord
Verse 7	Tend every morning with the lamp	Prayer is daily while tending to the Word
Verse 8	Tend at twilight regularly with lamp	Prayer is morning and night with the Word
Verse 9	No other offering to be made in it	Nothing else to offer sometimes but prayer
Verse 10	Once a year blood placed on horns	Prayer's power is because of His shed blood